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➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.❖◀

KRALL, TYRE AND SIDON.*

This well-written and instructive pamphlet we would most earnestly recommend to all interested in the history of the ancient Orient. The writer has most carefully compared all the notices of these two cities and of the other Phenician towns found in Egyptian texts with those of the Greek historians. He comes to the conclusion that the oldest Phenician town known to the Egyptians was *Byblos*,

known in Egyptian as Kapuna (𓆎𓆏𓆑𓆒) an exact transliteration

of the Semitic נַבְל, the Greek βύβλος, which plays a part already in the Egyptian mythology. It is also mentioned in texts dating from the reign of Thutmosis III. (reigned 1480–1430 B. C.) and in Pap. Anastasi I. a text dating from the reign of Ramses II. (reigned 1300–1230 B. C.). Another town mentioned in the Thutmosis texts and Pap. An. I. is *Aradus*, Semit. אַרְדּוּ, Eg. dema en

ardtu (𓆎𓆏𓆑𓆒𓆓𓆔𓆕𓆖𓆗𓆘𓆙𓆚).† The first mention of *Tyre* ַר

is found in Pap. An. I., where it is called *Tjar en mern* “Harbor-Tyre.” *Sidon* is not mentioned in the old texts. He concludes, thus, that while Byblos and Aradus were in the oldest times the chief towns of Phenicia, Tyre gained the supremacy later on and finally surrendered the hegemony to Sidon.

His remarks on the history of Paleography in his second section are to me convincing. He conjectures that the Semitic alphabet was derived from the thirty and more signs the Egyptians used in transliterating Semitic names. And it is but natural that the Phenicians dwelling in Egypt should have attempted to write their language by means of the letters the Egyptians had already set aside for this purpose. It is along the general lines indicated by Krall, then, that all further progress in this interesting question must proceed.

Section III. treats of the peoples that invaded Egypt under Ramses III. (about 1180 B. C.), and the general result of his investigation is that they came from Asia Minor, a very probable conjecture indeed.

* KRALL: “Studien zur altaeg. Geschichte.” III. “Tyrus und Sidon.” Reprinted from Sitz. Ber. der phil.-hist. classe der Wiener Akademie, vol. CXVI., Bd. I Hft., p. 631.

† The town of Arad.

His fourth section treats of the Cheta. He justly warns us of speaking of a mighty Cheta empire. The strength of the Cheta in the times of Ramses II. lay in the fact that their kingdom stood at the head of a mighty coalition of Syrian states directed against Ramses. The danger over, the coalition dissolved, and the Cheta kingdom again returned to its old position. When the Assyrians invaded Syria the Cheta, whom they called Hatti, were a small people. It is, then, unnecessary to assume that the kingdom was destroyed by the above-mentioned invasion that seriously menaced Egypt.

In conclusion he gives a sketch of the history of Tyre and Sidon, and touches the question of etymology of the Greek names. The name of Sidon, צִדֹן, came to the Greeks directly from the Sidonians, while that of Tyre, צֹר, came to them from Egypt—where it was Tjar—hence Gr. *τίρος*.

The first and second excursi touch questions in Herodotus, while the third relates to an Eg. inscription.

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